

REMARKS

The Official Action of June 30, 2004, and the prior art cited and relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claims in the application are now claims 1-8, and these claims define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable reconsideration and such allowance are respectfully urged.

Claims 1-8 remain in the application for consideration.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bigolin '426, and claims 4-6 as being unpatentable over Bigolin in view of Nakahara '475. Applicant respectfully traverses both of these rejections especially as applied to the claims as amended.

The Examiner maintains that cover 4 and plastic film 5 of Bigolin are equivalent to Applicant's first covering layer 40 and that transparent zone 7 of Bigolin is equivalent to Applicant's second covering layer. Applicant does not agree.

It is clear from Bigolin that cover 4 and ornamental element 5 are not formed as a unit from a single material as claimed, but are two independent elements which are different

from each other. In this regard, see column 3, lines 29-33 of Bigolin, wherein cover 4 is identified as "a flexible laminar material" and element 5 as "a film of plastic material". That these are two independent elements is further supported in column 4, lines 58-60 of Bigolin which makes clear that optically transparent zone 7 and covering layer 4 are made as a unit "starting from a base sheet ... of material". Since zone 7 and covering layer 4 are made as a unit, it is clear that covering layer 4 and ornamental element 5 are independent elements.

This also makes obvious that transparent zone 7 is not the equivalent to the claimed second covering layer, as it is made as a unit with cover 4 as indicated above, and not "formed separately from said first covering surface" as claimed by Applicant.

These differences produce a bicycle saddle that is far simpler to manufacture than that of Bigolin.

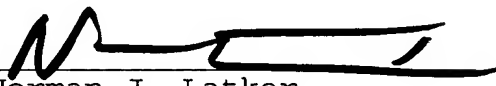
The prior art documents made of record and not relied upon have been noted along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently pertinent to warrant their applications against any of applicant's claims.

Appln. No. 10/673,785
Amdt. dated September 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 30, 2004

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are
earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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